

I have since looked into this idea and want to draw your attention to a structure that has been in place for a while that is quite similar to the NATO group. In 1974, Congress established the Congressional Advisers for Trade Policy and Negotiations, a trade policy and negotiations oversight body that remains in place today. This is a bipartisan group of official Congressional advisers, designated by the Leadership, that is accredited to our trade delegations and kept informed on matters affecting trade policy, including ongoing negotiations. I am including with this letter a summary of how the procedure works.

I am fully committed to ensuring that the Congressional trade advisor system works effectively to ensure that Congress is both fully informed and consulted as we develop and implement U.S. trade policy. I am convinced that the Administration benefits significantly when Congress plays an active and continuing role in formulating our trade policies and objectives. For that reason, the Administration bill and both the Senate and House bills, which I support, include specific language designed to enhance the effectiveness of the Congressional trade adviser system.

While the bills pending in the House and Senate seek to reinvigorate the Congressional Advisers mechanism, I believe that more can be done. Therefore, I would propose the inclusion of an additional title in the fast track bill entitled "Congressional Oversight Groups" that would:

a. Establish for each trade negotiation that the Administration notifies to the Congress under fast track, a specific "Congressional Oversight Group" for that negotiation. The group would be selected by the leadership from among the existing congressional trade advisers, and would be tasked with oversight of, and providing advice to the Trade Representative regarding, the negotiation.

b. Instruct the Trade Representative to work with the Senate and House leadership to develop, within 60 days of enactment, guidelines for interaction between the Administration and Congressional Oversight Groups. The guidelines would be structured to ensure a useful and timely flow of information between the Administration and the Congressional Oversight Group, including at an early stage between the Oversight Group and the Trade Representative to discuss the Administration's objectives and the Group's views.

I hope that you will give serious consideration to this proposal. I would welcome any thoughts that you and other Members may have.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.●

CHRISTINA A. SNYDER, JUDICIAL NOMINEE FOR THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the U.S. Senate showed its overwhelming support today for Christina Snyder, one of the most qualified legal minds to fill a seat on the Federal bench of the Central District of California. My unwavering confidence in Ms. Snyder arises from respect for her background, education and career. I am very pleased she has been confirmed.

Ms. Snyder is a native of the Los Angeles area, having grown up in the Montebello community in East Los Angeles. She studied in the public elemen-

tary schools of Montebello and Orange County, and was valedictorian of her high school class. She later studied at the University of California at Los Angeles, before transferring to Pomona College where she earned her undergraduate degree. She earned her law degree at Stanford University.

Mr. President, I am sure you are aware Ms. Snyder's legal background is highly respected throughout the State of California. Ms. Snyder has distinguished herself in the legal community of Los Angeles through more than 20 years of law practice. Ms. Snyder began her career working at the Los Angeles law firm of Wyman, Bautzer, Kuchel and Silbert, where she eventually was made a partner. She later went on to become a law partner at two other Los Angeles law firms. Her nomination and election to the highly regarded American Law Institute in 1993 is further evidence of the respect she commands within the legal profession.

Moreover, Ms. Snyder has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service as one of the founding members of Public Counsel, a public interest law firm of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills Bar Associations. She also served as the California State Bar designee on the Board of Directors of the Western Center for Law and Poverty.

Again, I am pleased to speak in favor of Ms. Snyder and feel she is a valuable addition to the Federal bench.

FUNDS FOR ROAD EXPANSION TO TRANSPORT HAZARDOUS WASTE

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask that the text of a concurrent resolution passed by the Texas Legislature, be printed in the RECORD.

The text of the concurrent resolution follows:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 202

Whereas, Compliance with international disarmament treaties to curtail the proliferation of nuclear arms and defuse weapons of mass destruction has created new challenges for the United States related to the dismantling and cleanup of nuclear missiles; and

Whereas, The development, production, and disassembling of nuclear weapons produce transuranic waste, a highly radioactive conglomeration of contaminated laboratory gloves, tools, dried sludge, and other substances from testing and production facilities; and

Whereas, To create a safe and environmentally responsible method for permanently disposing of transuranic waste, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) has designed the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in southern New Mexico that will set the standard for deep geologic disposal of defense-related radioactive waste; and

Whereas, The transuranic waste to be deposited at the WIPP facility will be shipped by truck from all across the country, traveling through many states, including Texas, which is a major thoroughfare for radio active materials coming from South Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, and Ohio; and

Whereas, While a majority of the proposed route through Texas is on Interstate 20, a segment runs along U.S. Highway 285; this

portion of the route, which begins in Pecos, Texas, and continues into New Mexico, is a treacherous and narrow two-lane road; and

Whereas, The State of New Mexico, in a prudent move to protect the public safety of its citizens, has dedicated part of the impact funds received from the DOE for housing the WIPP to widen its section of U.S. 285; this highway is a dangerous and inadequate road that has already been the scene of one accident involving an empty WIPP transport truck; and

Whereas, There are currently no federal funds allocated for the State of Texas to take the same necessary safety precautions by widening the section of U.S. 285 running through our State; the health and safety of United States citizens residing in the Lone Star State is no less important than that of our neighbors to the northwest; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 75th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to allocate funds for road expansion in Texas along the designated route for transporting hazardous waste to the WIPP project; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.●

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF LEBANON CELEBRATION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in commemoration of the Lebanese Independence Day Celebration hosted by the Consul General of Lebanon and Mrs. Hassan Muslimani. The nation of Lebanon achieved its independence in 1943. A democratic nation, it is a leader in its region. Lebanon was a founding member of the League of Arab States which has done much to further the goals and interests of the region. Globally, Lebanon has also played a great part in the United Nations, a founding member, and also in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The nation of Lebanon has faced many challenges, but continues to preserve regardless of foreign and regional obstacles.

Lebanese Americans play an important role in the United States as well. I am always proud of this community's efforts to foster relationships of goodwill. These efforts will go far in enhancing and promoting the Lebanese American community's image and understanding. Recently, the United States' travel ban to Lebanon was lifted, allowing the people of our nations to travel freely. I look forward to future strengthening in ties between the United States and Lebanon.

Again, I would like to wish the greatest of success to the Consul General on his reception, and that it may bring closer our two cultures. Likewise, I am honored to recognize his strong efforts to raise awareness of the Lebanon Independence Day, November 22.●